

YMCA Camp Ravencliff Teen Leadership Programs Summer 2024



Campers In Leadership Training (CILTs)

For teens entering grades 9-12 in the fall

CILT Session: July 7-21

Our CILT program has been embracing and celebrating the unique energy and talents of teens while building leadership and teamwork skills for decades. The CILT program features:

- A few hours each day with their CILT Director and CILT group participating in activities designed to strengthen them as a team, develop skills and of course, have fun!
- Supporting camp operations by taking turns helping with camp dishes and checking out canoes at the waterfront.
- Cooking lunch for camp on Wednesdays, under the direction of their CILT Director
- Some free time each day to hangout, relax and enjoy camp.

This two-week program allows participants to grow and build their skills during each session at camp, and in consecutive years take on additional responsibilities, all under the supervision of our well-trained staff. CILTs are assigned to a cabin each week and will be with their cabin group during cabin times like meals, morning inspiration, campfire and overnight. They will be assigned to a different cabin each week which will allow them the opportunity to work and interact with different counselors and different camper ages. In some cases CILTs may be assigned to a cabin with campers and/or a counselor of a different gender than their own. As with any of our cabin groupings, strict policies are always in place regarding camper supervision to ensure safety and privacy for all.



The CILT program requires an application and references.

Applications will be reviewed to ensure applicants are a good fit for the program. In some cases interviews may be scheduled. To complete the application, return to the main Camp Ravencliff website and find the link under the CILT heading.

CILT Fee: \$1000 for the 2-week program
Financial assistance is available

Rising Leaders (RLs)

For teens entering grade 8-9 in the fall

RL Session: June 30-July 7

This exciting new program invites teens to enjoy the fun of camp with an enhanced program that includes special extended activities like a longer cabin activity & overnighter as well as activities designed to introduce them to the foundations of what it means to be a leader. RLs will work with our CILT Director and other camp staff to learn to work together as a team, embrace differences and learn about the importance of service leadership at camp. To facilitate this development RLs will be housed in an all-gender cabin along with 2 staff members to provide safe, quality, memorable program experiences.

RL participants should be ready to participate fully in the camp programming experience with a desire to try new things and learn and grow while contributing positively to the camp community in actions and attitude. Space is limited in this program and we encourage early registration.

To register, return to the main Camp Ravencliff webpage and click the Register Now button.

Rising Leader FAQs:

How does the RL program differ from the traditional Youth Camp experience?

RLs will participate in many regular camp activities such as choice activities in the morning, free swim time, inspiration and campfire. In addition, during some activity periods they will be working together with their RL group and leaders to participate in interactive challenge- and/or growth-based activities designed to help them better understand their role in a group and how to work together effectively with a team, crucial life skills that will benefit them at camp and beyond. Their overnighter campout will be extended longer than the traditional overnighter campout and they will have at least one cabin activity that extends over multiple activity periods, longer than a traditional cabin activity. These extended experiences allow our staff to create activities designed to be even more impactful than our traditional program to create truly memorable camp experiences. Additionally, one of the goals of this program is to help young teens understand the importance of service leadership and how true camp leaders give back to camp regularly. This is a cornerstone of our CILT & staff experiences so we will begin to introduce this important concept in this program. One way RLs will practice service learning is to be scheduled to help with running the dish sanitizer (Jackson) and helping with kitchen dishes. These are tasks that CILTs typically perform at camp, and are critical to the operation of camp.

How does the RL program differ from the CILT program?

CILTs are typically older teens. They are assigned to camper cabins to provide support to that cabin counselor and campers and spend much of their day with their CILT program group in training and activities. They also provide more operational support to camp by helping not only with dishes but with canoes, overnighter prep and even cooking lunch one day each week. The RL program will be more similar to the youth camp experience than the CILT program, but is a good bridge between the two.

How will you ensure safety and privacy in all-gender cabins?

Living together can create a powerful opportunity to increase understanding and appreciation of differences and begin to remove stereotypes and biases. Camper safety is always our first concern, and the key to camper safety has always been appropriate supervision by staff. Cabin time will always be supervised by at least one of our camp staff members, including after lights out and throughout the night. At Camp Ravencliff, campers are not allowed to change clothes in front of each other and will do so either in the restrooms, in a changing tent or in their sleeping bag under staff supervision. RLs will commit to a cabin code of conduct as well as the overall camp rules. While we don't expect it to happen, should there be any violation of rules or code of conduct, especially those related to safety, the camper will be removed from program and parents contacted to immediately pick up their camper.

